



# NEWS RELEASE

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## ***SBA OFFERS NEW CONTRACT TOOL TO HUBZone CERTIFIED BUSINESSES***

**WASHINGTON** – Small businesses in economically distressed areas around the country can now use a no-cost, online search tool created by the U.S. Small Business Administration to identify federal contracting opportunities available to certified firms in the agency's HUBZone Empowerment Contracting Program.

The newest search tool supplies a direct link to the online Commerce Business Daily (CBD-Net), which posts procurement opportunities daily. It will also accommodate later this year a new single-point government-wide procurement postings Web site, FedBizOpps, which is expected to supplement CBD-Net starting October 1.

**"By providing a direct link from the SBA's Web site to the Commerce Business Daily or FedBizOpps and the HUBZone Gateway, we have provided yet another winning combination for small businesses. Using these tools, small business owners will have contract opportunities at their fingertips,"** said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto.

**"We will continue our efforts to streamline the process associated with the federal government's acquisition of goods and services from small businesses,"** added Barreto.

The HUBZone program's newest search tool makes its debut just two months after HUBZone Gateway—an online business tool and extension of the SBA's PRO-Net database. The Gateway was designed to link contracting officers with HUBZone firms in the estimated \$200 billion-per-year federal contract marketplace and allow contracting officers to fill contracts. It has helped the nearly 4,000 small businesses certified as HUBZone companies use the database to market their capabilities to government agencies.

Both the new search tool and HUBZone Gateway can be accessed at [www.sba.gov/hubzone](http://www.sba.gov/hubzone).

Nationally, HUBZones are located in more than 7,000 urban census tracts, in 900 rural counties and on every federally recognized Native American reservation.

*Additional information about SBA's programs and services is available at the SBA's Web site: <http://www.sba.gov> or by calling the SBA's Answer Desk at 1-800-U ASK SBA.*

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